

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14, through page 6, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring in more detail to the drawings, FIG. 1 illustrates a system 10 for compression molding plastic articles such as preforms that are subsequently molded into plastic containers. The system 10 includes a compression molding machine 14 that preferably includes a rotary turret 16 with a plurality of pairs of mold tooling 18 disposed about the periphery of the turret 16 in an endless path (in FIG. 1, some mold tooling pairs have been removed to show the turret 16). An extruder 20 provides molten plastic material that is delivered to the mold tooling pairs 18 to form the plastic articles. The extruded material is delivered to the mold cavities 24 by a pellet cutter and transfer apparatus 26 that preferably accurately cuts the extruded material 20 into desired sized mold charge pellets 28 (FIG. 35) and delivers the pellets 28 or plastic charges into cavities 24 of the mold tooling pairs 18. ~~The mold tooling pairs 18 may be constructed and arranged substantially as shown and described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. _____ and the rotary turret 16 and associated components can be constructed and arranged as shown and described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. _____.~~ A take-out mechanism 30 is preferably provided to remove formed plastic articles from mold cavities 24 and to transfer them away from the compression molding apparatus 14 for further processing, such as either cooling or subsequent blow molding. ~~A takeout and cooling apparatus as shown and described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. _____ may be provided.~~